

Between two and three feet above the lowest water level is a narrow belt of small-flowered paperbark (*Melaleuca parviflora*) with an undergrowth of thin grass-reed (*Leptocarpus coangustatus*). The paperbark and the grass-reed are well established on the north-western side of the lake, as shown by the diagonal rules on the map. The paperbark is more widespread on the western side. Its larger size makes it a more exacting plant and a slower one to colonise a new environment. Most of the specimens are still quite young. The south-eastern slope, which is steeper in the vicinity of the water, carries much thinner belts of these plants (shown by the initials M.p. and the diagonal rules on the map).

Just on the outside of the *Melaleuca-Leptocarpus* belt is usually found near similar lakes a belt of flat-leaved sedge (*Lepidosperma longitudinale*). Near Lake Lesehenaultia, so far as this rapid survey disclosed, this flat-leaved sedge has only colonised three small areas, shown by thick diagonal lines on the map. Two of these areas are at the south-east corner of the lake, one on each side of the creek. The third area, shown by the initials L.L., is near the north-eastern side of the lake, near the smaller creek. The reason for this remarkable coincidence is worth investigating—it might be due to a differential deposition of silt by the creeks, slightly coarser material being deposited at flood time where *Lepidosperma* now grows.

Exactly due south of the dam are two very small colonies of yanget (*Typha angustifolia*) which appear to be very recent. They are shown in black on the map.

On the recently formed low-lying islands in the bed of the main creek, within reach of the water-table but not actually in the water, is a young and growing colony of flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*).

Thanks are expressed to Mr. R. D. Royce for the determination of botanical species.

—J. GENTILLI, University of W.A., Nedlands.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Piracy in the Silver Gull.**—While watching sea-birds at Rose Bay, Sydney, I saw a Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*) pursued by a Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*). The tern dropped a small fish which was immediately seized from the surface by the gull. A few minutes later a Silver Gull was seen closely pursuing another Crested Tern.

A third pursuit was very prolonged and determined, but the tern apparently retained the prey which it was carrying.

The impression that I gained from the foregoing three observations was that the Silver Gull (or gulls) was practising deliberate piracy. I have no recollection of this behaviour having been attributed to this species, though it is well-recognised as a characteristic of the skuas.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Caron.